

Green Holds Unions Are Vital Factor In Securing Social Ideals of Labor

A. F. of L. President, in Labor Day Message, Stresses Benefits

The great importance of the thorough and effective grouping of working men and women in strong organizations for the economic and social benefit and cultural advancement not only of union members but of all workers is stressed by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor in his Labor Day Message for 1937, prepared especially for the Labor Day

Mr. Green mentioned the decrease in unemployment, the increase of nearly three quarters of a million in the membership of the American Federation of Labor, the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States affirming the constitutionality of the Social Security Act, the National Labor Relations Act, and State minimum wage legislation for women and minors, and the enactment by Congress of the Railway Retirement Law.

LABOR'S CULTURAL IDEALS

On Labor Day our thoughts are not centered entirely upon material achievements, important though they may be. Instead, we turn to a serious consideration of the social and economic aspects of life, with special emphasis upon the enduring and real.

All the miners and wives of the American Union of Labor

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

When we have established the practice of collective bargaining and no longer have to waste our energies in maintaining this right there will be more time for the development of those forces within us that release our creative and cultural abilities.

FEWER UNEMPLOYED
Let us turn first to the field of work.
There has been a steady decline in the number of unemployed during the past year, and we have every reason to hope for an even greater improvement in the months just ahead.

A review of the events of the year marked by Labor Day, 1937, discloses a record of achievement and progress which is heartening to the workers of our Nation.

The American Federation of Labor has increased its membership by nearly three quarters of a million members since last Labor Day. This does not take into consideration the membership of those organizations which left the A. F. of L.

Extension of union agreements parallels increase in the scope and strength of union organization. Workers who never before dared organize and ask for a voice in determining the conditions and pay under which they work, are now negotiating wage agreements through their elected representatives.

LEGAL RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

We have also made progress in the legislative field. As no law is really effective until the Supreme Court approves it, we find satisfaction in the favorable ruling of the United States Supreme Court on the constitutionality of three most important laws concerning the workers—the National Labor Relations Act, the Social Security Act and minimum wage legislation.

Theoretically the workers have been free for many years, yet in actual practice they have found it difficult to exercise this right in many instances.

prior to the time the National Government assumed responsibility for maintaining this right.

SOCIAL SECURITY ACT BENEFITS

We are proud of the progress made in providing against those emergencies that befall most wage earners—old age and unemployment.

Every state now has an approved unemployment compensation plan under

The Social Security Act. Forty-two states have old age assistance laws to which the Federal Government also contributes. This is amazing progress in so short a time and is of real interest to those workers in covered occupations.

We are now free to plan for the enlargement of the scope of coverage of the several state laws as well as improving the provisions already made. This should be one of the major objectives of state federations of labor

BROADENING OF OLD-AGE ANNUITIES

Labor is vitally concerned also with the old age benefit provisions of the Social Security Act and Railway Retirement Act. As experience points the way it is hoped that the classifications of workers included in these provisions will be definitely broadened.

There are altogether too many categories of workers excluded from the provisions of the old age benefit plan under the Social Security Act. This has been due in part to difficulties of administering the provisions for some groups of workers and it may be that some separate scheme will have to be devised before the majority of these excluded workers may be brought under the provisions of the Act.

however, and we feel encouraged to aim for further developments.

MINIMUM WAGE LAWS FOR WOMEN

The decision of the Supreme Court concerning the constitutionality of minimum wage legislation is a reversal of its former stand on this subject and opens the way for protective legislation for women.

With each step forward Labor becomes increasingly conscious of the fact that our first concern is the strengthening and advancement of our organized labor movement, that the workers and all Society may be safeguarded and bettered.

Unity for the common good of all must be our aim. It devolves upon the rank and file as well as those entrusted with the direction of our unions to be ever conscious of our responsibilities both to the labor movement and to all concerned that the common good of all may be advanced. I bespeak the cooperation of all our members and friends toward this end.

75,000 NEW A. F. OF L. MEMBERS IN WISCONSIN

unionism, and the American Federation of Labor over the C. I. O. was reported here by Edward D. Vandaele, Secretary of the California State Federation of Labor, who announced the establishment of Cannery Workers Union No. 21106, embracing employees in the plant of the Calbar Canneries Com-

Mr. Vandeleur said the union has 1,900 members and was established by organizers of the State Federation of Labor after C. I. O. organizers had attempted to enlist the workers in their union.

hip of those C. I. O. unions which had been affiliated with the State Federation of Labor, but which have either been dropped for non-payment of per capita tax, or have withdrawn.

The annual convention of the State Federation of Labor will open at Manitowoc on September 21. The speakers include William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, and Francis Perkins, Secretary of Labor.

A blank sheet of graph paper with a grid pattern. The grid consists of horizontal and vertical lines forming small squares. There are approximately 20 columns and 15 rows visible. A thicker vertical line runs down the left side, about one-fifth of the way from the edge, possibly serving as a margin. The paper has a slightly textured appearance.



arrangements were made for establishing an International Union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.